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October 25, 2013

Ms. Marcia Smith  
Manager, Special Projects Office  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, MS 23  
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED**  
**13-CCEJA-01**

TN 72261

OCT. 28 2013

RE: Comments on Proposition 39 – Docket Number 13-CCEJA-1

Dear Ms. Smith,

Thank you very much for the California Energy Commission's dedicated work to develop clear and concise Guidelines for the California Clean Energy Jobs Act. The Sacramento Tree Foundation appreciates the inclusion of shade trees as well as native, drought-tolerant plants and landscaping as examples of energy saving measures.

One clarification for the shade tree example in Exhibit B would be to modify the language so that it does not exclusively state the south side of the building. Energy savings through shade trees are primarily realized through planting shade trees on the west and east sides of buildings in California. One suggestion for rewording the example is:

Plant deciduous shade trees strategically on the west, east and south sides of buildings.

The exact location of the tree must take into account several factors, including building height, tree height at maturity, and tree distance from the building.

One additional comment: many schools are greatly in need of facility improvements to their buildings and it is likely that a great deal of focus for grant applications will be on building renovation. If possible under the statute guidelines, it would be excellent for our communities to recognize the public health benefits of urban greening on school campuses – which include air quality improvement, stormwater retention and cleansing, improvement in student concentration and focus and protection from skin cancer – so that more emphasis is placed in the Guidelines to create energy saving, healthy school campuses for our youth population.

One suggestion would be to provide an additional incentive by way of prioritization metrics to encourage a holistic, environmentally healthy proposal for the school

campus. Increasing tree canopy has been shown to reduce ambient air temperatures in Central Valley environments by 3 – 5 degrees Fahrenheit. As the impacts of climate change are increasingly experienced in California, timely action with respect to increasing tree canopy now is a wise and relatively economical solution.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of the Sacramento Tree Foundation's suggestions. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 974-4319 or [cindy@sactree.com](mailto:cindy@sactree.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cindy Blain', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Cindy Blain  
Community Partnerships & Innovation Director